DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR 1-6
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January 6, 1976

Honorable Richard Kelly
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Thank you for your letter of December 11; I regret that my letter of November 12 was not fully responsive to your earlier query.

Concerning the attack on the USS Liberty during the Arab-Israeli war of June 1967, the Government of Israel informed us of the attack by its air and sea forces on the USS Liberty shortly after the attack took place on June 8. We expressed in strongest terms our concern over this act, on the grounds that the Liberty was on a peaceful mission in international waters, and that there was ample opportunity for the attacking forces to identify the ship as American. The Israeli Government in turn expressed regret for what it described as a tragic accident, and offered to make amends for the loss of life and damage which had occurred. On April 28, 1969 the U.S. Government received $3,566,887 from the Israeli Government.

At the time of the incident, a Navy court of inquiry made a thorough study of what had happened. The results of the investigation were made public through a report issued by the Department of Defense.

Please call on me if I can be of further assistance to you.

Sincerely,

GW

Robert J. McCloskey
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

Enclosure:
Correspondence returned

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